

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 1A and 1B. Original Figs. 1A and 1B have been amended to include "Prior Art" below FIG. 1B and FIG. 1A. This sheet of drawings replaces the original sheet including Figure 1A and 1B.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in response to the Office Action dated June 27, 2005. The Office Action is a restriction and an election of species requirement. Applicants are requested to elect a single invention between allegedly ten groups of inventions. Applicants respectfully submit for the reasons set forth below that the restriction and the election of species requirements are not proper and accordingly request that they be withdrawn. At the outset, Applicants elect, with traverse, Claims 1-20. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications to the non-elected claims.

The Office Action also requires Applicants to elect a species from one of the Figures for prosecution. To responsively reply to the restriction requirement, Applicants elect, with traverse, Figures 2A and 2B. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications to the non-elected species.

Applicants respectfully submit that this election of species requirement is not proper. First, Applicants believe that all of claims are generic. Indeed, it appears the sole basis for the Patent Office's election of species requirement is to force Applicants to prosecute a single independent claim and then with respect thereto essentially a single embodiment of the dependent claims. This is not proper and indeed is specifically contrary to the mandates of the MPEP. Furthermore, the MPEP requires the Patent Office to specifically identify which claims read on which of the species. The Patent Office has failed to do so. For example, the Patent Office requires Applicants to include an identification of species and list all the claims that are readable thereon.

Still further, Applicants respectfully request that the Patent Office reconsider the restriction and election of species requirement. Indeed, the alleged species are not patentably distinct. For example, the claims and the species generally relate to ESP systems comprising a corona discharge electrode/ionization region, collector electrodes and an insulated driver electrode. Thus, Applicants believe that the alleged species are not so different that an examination of all of Claims 1-81 on the merits can be made without placing serious burden upon the Patent Office. Therefore, the restriction and election of species requirements should be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: July 25, 2005